



DIABETES IN DILLON COUNTY

SC Department of Health and Environmental Control ◆ Diabetes Control Program ◆ Chronic Disease Epidemiology Branch Diabetes Initiative of South Carolina

Diabetes mellitus, a chronic disease characterized by elevated blood sugar levels, is a significant contributor to morbidity and mortality in South Carolina and throughout the United States. Diabetes can cause debilitating and costly complications such as blindness, renal failure, lower extremity amputations, and cardiovascular disease. Much of the health and economic burden of diabetes can be averted through known prevention measures.

In 1998, 5.7 percent of South Carolina adults, equivalent to approximately 163,000 adults, reported having been diagnosed with diabetes. Diabetes was the sixth leading cause of death in South Carolina claiming 1,029 lives in 1997 and contributing to another 3,014 deaths. This report presents the burden of diabetes in Dillon county.

Behavioral Risk Factors

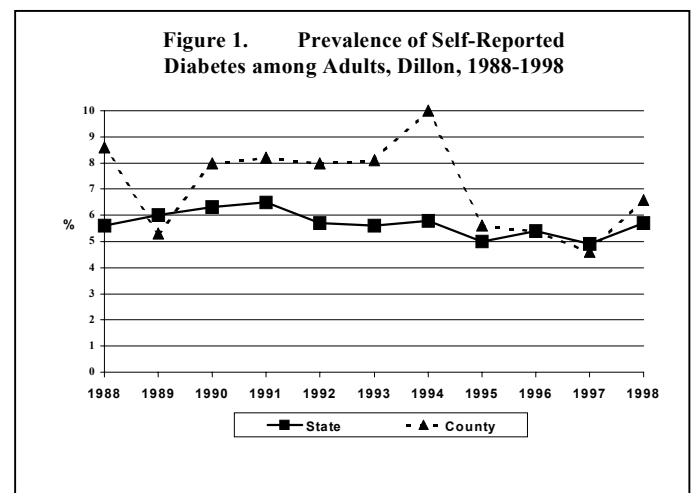
Table 1 displays the prevalence of major behavioral risk factors for diabetes and its complications in Dillon county and SC in 1998.

Table 1. Prevalence (%) of
Behavioral Risk Factors for Diabetes

	Dillon County	SC
Overweight	57.6	52.3
Current Smokers	28.1	24.7
Physical Inactivity	66.6	61.6
Consuming fruits and vegetables less than 5-A-Day	75.2	78.2
High Cholesterol (1997)	24.7	24.4
Hypertension (1997)	27.3	26.7

Prevalence

In 1998 there were approximately 1,413 adults (6.6%) aged 18 and older living in Dillon county who have been told by a doctor some time in their life that they have diabetes (Figure 1).



Morbidity and Complications

In 1997, there were 90 hospital discharges with diabetes as the primary diagnosis among Dillon county residents. During the same year, there was an additional 836 hospital discharges with diabetes-related condition. Compared to whites, African-Americans had more hospitalizations for diabetes as the primary diagnosis - 52 (57%), and fewer hospitalizations for diabetes as a related diagnosis - 368 (44%).

In 1997, hospital charges for hospitalizations of Dillon county residents having diabetes as primary diagnosis were up to \$790,631 and \$10.2 million for diabetes as a related condition. The total length of

hospital stay for diabetes as the primary diagnosis was 493 days.

Dillon county patients with diabetes who had diabetes-related complications in 1997 included:

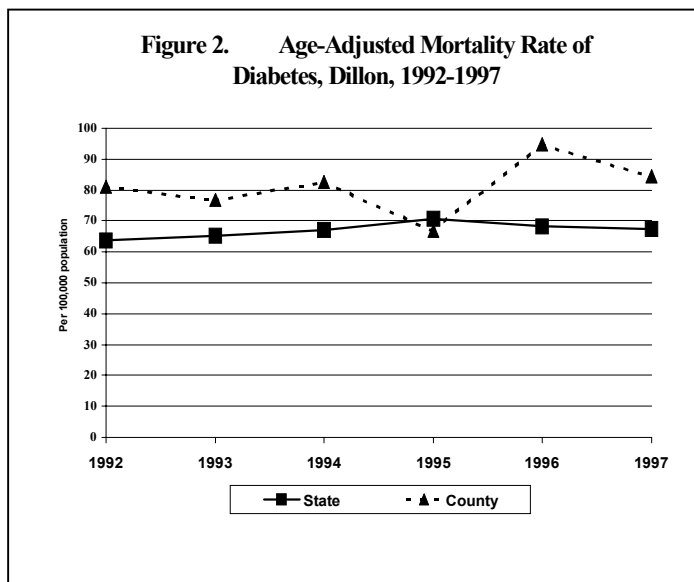
- 83 (9.9%) with renal manifestations;
- 15 (1.6%) with lower extremity amputations related to diabetes;
- 18 (1.9%) with diabetic ketoacidosis;
- 44 (4.8%) with renal failure;
- 38 (4.1%) with dialysis.

Adults with diabetes are at increased risk of developing cardiovascular disease. Out of 914 hospitalizations for patients with diabetes, 713 (78%) had cardiovascular diseases, and 75 (8.2%) had stroke.

In 1997, there were 101 emergency room (ER) visits for diabetes as the primary diagnosis, among which 61 (60%) were for African-American patients. In addition, there were 123 ER visits for diabetes as a related condition. Total ER charges for diabetes as the primary diagnosis was \$44,520.

Mortality

In 1997, diabetes was listed as the underlying cause of death for 20 residents of Dillon county. This is an age-standardized mortality rate of 56.3 per 100,000 population, higher than the state average of 39.2 per 100,000 population (Figure 2). Diabetes was listed as a contributing cause in 31 deaths in Dillon county; a standardized mortality rate of 84 per 100,000 population.



A total of 157 potential years of life were lost in 1997 because people died prematurely from diabetes. Diabetes mortality in Dillon county follows the national pattern of diabetic mortality that African-Americans has higher mortality rates than whites. African-American men had the highest standardized mortality (153.4 per 100,000 population) among all race-sex groups.

Dillon County Resources

Sandra McMillan, RD
Clinical Dietitian
St. Eugene Medical Center
301 East Jackson Street
Dillon, SC 29536

Edward Schlaefer, FACH
Palmetto Community Health Network
900 C Main Street
PO Box 56
Conway, SC 29529
(843) 248-5296

Buquilla Ervin
Pee Dee Minority Health Disease Prevention and Health Education
231 South Warley Street
Florence, SC 29501
(843) 629-7753

